

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO

Board of Directors' Electronic Board Meeting

July 13-19, 2008

Members present: Diane Albert, Johnnie Aldrich, Bonnie Burn, Katherine Campbell, Cheryl Haaker, Jody Larson, Lora Lucero, Richard Mason, Linda Moscarella, Anne Nobile, Los Alamos Voting Member
Absent: Diane Goldfarb, Cathy Mathews

Off Board Participants: Barbara Calef, Jennice Fishburn, Rebecca Shankland, Dee Watkins
Guests: Judy Binder, Barbara Goedecke, and Jo Porter

Call to Order: Sunday, July 13, 7:40 a.m. by email.

Approval of Agenda: No changes

Meeting Minutes 3/17/2008: Accepted as amended to correct Dolores Waller's name.

Treasurer's Reports: The treasurer submitted two reports: (1) Report Ending July 8, 2008, and (2) Profit and Loss for period January 1 through July 8, 2008. No action was taken.

Business of the Meeting:

1. Tax Increment Development (TIDD): Signature on Letter to Bureau of Finance (Attachment): Lora Lucero requested that LWVNM sign a letter addressed to the New Mexico State Board of Finance. The letter was proposed by coalition partners and recommended changes to the current Tax Increment for Development Act.

Motion made by Lora Lucero: The League of Women Voters of New Mexico will join in supporting the attached recommendations to the NM Board of Finance dealing with its proposed rule regarding dedication of the state gross receipts tax increment under the New Mexico Tax Increment for Development Act.

There was agreement (5 yes and 1 no vote) that the League's name should be added to the letter with this special note to Board members: League support is offered only in this particular set of comments to the Bureau of Finance. Further action on the TIDDs question will require more discussion in the Action Committee and by the Board. Lora Lucero was identified as the League's contact person.

2. Voters' Guide Questions (Attachment): Jennice Fishburn on behalf of LWVNM Voters' Guide Committee proposed questions for the U.S. Senate, Justices of the New Mexico Supreme Court, and Judges of the Court of Appeals and offered further recommendations. There was general discussion that question 3 for judges categories be split into two questions becoming questions 3 and 4. There was consensus that the apostrophe should follow the "s" in *Voters' Guide*.

Motion made by Cheryl Haaker: to approve the *Voters' Guide* questions as amended to split question 3 into two questions in the judges' categories.
Motion was approved.

The Committee will be sending questions to the candidates. Response will be compiled by the Committee and distributed to local Leagues for inclusion in their *Voters' Guides*, along with information on Constitutional Amendments and state General Obligation Bonds.

A later discussion question arose from Jennice Fishburn about the number of words allocated to the judges answers since there is an additional question. Should this be a Board or Committee decision.

A Committee decision seems the most logical as they are the group dealing with space in the *Voters' Guide*.

3. Regional Water Plans Resolution (Attachment): The LWVNM Water Study Committee recommends that the Board approve a resolution in support of legislative funding to update four of the sixteen regional water plans each year.

PRO: LWVNM has consistently supported similar legislation in recent legislative sessions using its existing position. Conci Bokum, the water representative of 1000 Friends of New Mexico with whom members of the Water Study Committee have been working on issues of land use and water, requested that we show our support in this way.

CON: It is not clear what other groups will be passing similar resolutions or who will coordinate their presentation to the legislature.

The discussion revolved around the allocation of \$345,000 and whether it was sufficient to cover four regional plan updates in light of inflation over the intervening years and what the LWVNM supported in the past. During the 2008 Legislative Session, the NM Water Dialogue worked with Representative Andrew Nuñez (D-Doña Ana) to obtain an appropriation for funding regional plan updates. HB 85 stipulated the amount \$345,000, and was supported by LWVNM. This would have been a one-time expenditure for FY 2009 to support the regional water planning program. The bill failed. Additionally, the idea that four plans should be updated each year may have come from the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) or the state engineer. It was suggested that the resolution could be submitted without a dollar amount.

Motion was made by Jody Larson: To approve the regional water planning resolution without amendment.

Motion passed.

4. State of Health Care for All Coalition: Bonnie Burn raised some questions about LWVNM partnership with Health Care for All in light of the recent changes in co-directors of Health Action New Mexico and Health Care for All. Dick Mason clarified that he has accepted the Interim Executive Director position for Health Action New Mexico, and he is LWVNM's representative to Health Care for All (HCA). He also supplied a list of HCA's principles that are consistent with the position of LWVNM.
5. *La Palabra*: A table of contents was distributed to Board members and a deadline of Sunday, July 20th, was established for production.

Announcements

1. Valerie Plame Wilson, a former CIA operative outed during the Iraq War, will speak and sign her book, "Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House," on Saturday, July 20th, 7 p.m., Albuquerque Page One bookstore, Juan Tabo and Montgomery NE.
2. Sister Helen Prejean, advocate for ending the death penalty, will be in Santa Fe for a limited house party event with suggested donation.

Next Board Meeting:

Saturday, October 18, 2008, 12:30 – 5:30 p.m., New Mexico Mining & Technology, Skeen Library, Don Trip Room.

Adjournment:

The Electronic Board Meeting ended on 11 p.m., Friday, July 19, with a final email from President Kathy Campbell that tallied the votes on the motions made and announced that there would not be a conference call on Saturday, July 20, 2008, at 11 a.m.

Submitted by

Bonnie Burn
Secretary

Attachments

1. Tax Increment Development Letter to the Bureau of Finance with Comments enclosed
2. Voters' Guide Questions
3. Regional Water Plans Resolution